GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5174
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2000
IRREGULARITIES IN SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT
GADDE RAMAMOHAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported irregularities in Secunderabad Cantonment Board with regard to housing and other civil constructions;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the total number of houses in the Board area and official records corrected accordingly;

(c) whether all the taxes are being regularly collected from the residents of the Board area;

(d) whether any objections have been received from Hyderabad Airport on the Height of the Buildings, which are causing problems for take off and landing of Aeroplanes;

(e) if so, the action taken thereon;

(f) whether the Government are considering Amendments to Cantonment Act 1924, which is not useful to the present day requirements;
(g) whether there was a fraud of more than one crore rupees in Engine Oil purchases by employees and the Board Officials asked for a CBI inquiry into the corrupt practices of Board Employees; and
(h) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. In December, 1999, a survey was conducted by the CEO, Secunderabad Cantonment Board and 242 buildings, partly or wholly, unauthorised, were detected in various parts of the Cantonment. The assessment and collection of property tax is also, regularly, done by Cantonment Boards, including Secunderabad, in accordance with the provisions contained in the Act.

(d) & (e): National Airport Authority at Hyderabad had forwarded a list of certain properties likely to cause problems for take-off and landing of the Aeroplanes on extension of runway No. 27. Subsequently the State Government has proposed an alternative site for a new international airport at Shamshabad. Therefore, no follow up action has been taken by the Board on Airport Authority's letter.

(f) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive Bill is proposed to be introduced to enact a new legislation.

(g) & (h): Yes, Sir. Based on the findings of a Committee appointed by the General Officer Commanding-in- Chief, HQrs Southern Command, Pune, the CBI was requested by the Government to take up investigation. The investigation is yet to be completed.